REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding final Office Action mailed May 19, 2005. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and pending claims are respectfully requested.

I.   **Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)**

A.   **Rejection of Claims 1, 5, 7, 16, and 18**

Claims 1, 5, 7, 16, and 18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rowland, et al. ("Rowland," EP 0844767) in view of Jones, et al. ("Jones," U.S. Pat. No. 5,623,637). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

As has been acknowledged by the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office ("USPTO") has the burden under section 103 to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness by showing some objective teaching in the prior art or generally available knowledge of one of ordinary skill in the art that would lead that individual to the claimed invention. *See In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596, 1598 (Fed. Cir. 1988). The Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP) section 2143 discusses the requirements of a *prima facie* case for obviousness. That section provides as follows:

> To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teaching. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed

combination and reasonable expectation of success must be found in the prior art, and not based on applicant's disclosure.

In the present case, the prior art at least does not teach or suggest all of the claim limitations. Applicant discusses the applied references and Applicant's claims in the following.

1. The Rowland Disclosure

Rowland discloses a user controlled browser. Rowland, Patent Title. More particularly, Rowland discloses a method and apparatus for providing user identification and transaction information to web sites in the process of getting access to the web sites. Rowland, column 1, lines 3-6. As is described by Rowland, a user attempts to access a web site. Rowland, column 6, lines 8-11. In response, the web site returns to the user's computer the site name and a request for user information. Rowland, column 6, lines 12-15.

An applet on the user's computer then determines whether an entry exists for the website name. Rowland, column 6, lines 18-22. If no entry exists, the applet requests of and receives from the user a limit level reflecting the level of information that is to be provided to the web site. Rowland, column 6, lines 22-35.

After the limit level is received, or if an entry already exists, the applet responds to the web site with information fields that pertain to the limit level associated with the particular web site. Rowland, column 6, lines 52-55.

2. Applicant's Claims

Applicant's claims describe methods and systems that are not anticipated or rendered obvious by Rowland or Jones. Applicant discusses the claims in the following.

(a) Claims 1, 5, 7, 18, and 22-26

Applicant's independent claim 1 provides as follows (emphasis added):

> 1. A method for sharing user information, comprising:
>
> receiving from a user an identification of a level of access that is to be extended to a web site host;
>
> assigning a user code that is pertinent to the identified level of access;
>
> *providing the user code to the web site host when the user visits a web site maintained by the web site host*;
>
> *receiving from the web site host* a request for information concerning the user and *the user code that was provided to the web site host*;
>
> *determining a level of access* for which the web site host is authorized *from the user code received from the web site host*; and
>
> *transmitting user information to the web site host that pertains to the user code*.

In the Office Action, the Examiner argues that Rowland teaches each of the various actions of claim 1, except for "a system wherein the browser receives an access code to determine the level of access," which it is alleged is taught by Jones. Applicant notes that this limitation is not contained in claim 1. Therefore, Applicant will treat the Examiner's rejection as an argument that Rowland teaches each and every limitation of claim 1.

First, Rowland does not teach *"providing the user code to the web site host* when the user visits a web site maintained by the web site host"*. As is described above, web sites in the Rowland system only request information upon the user attempting to access the site and, in return, the requested information (not a user code) is provided to the web site by an applet executing on the user' computer.

Second, Rowland does not teach *"receiving from the web site host* a request for information concerning the user and *the user code that was provided to the web site host"*. As is described above, no user code is provided to web sites in the Rowland system. As such, Rowland's web site host does not, and cannot, provide a user code to any other system component. It logically follows that Rowland's system does not "receive" a user code "from the web site host" as is required by claim 1.

Third, Rowland does not teach "determining a level of access for which the web site host is authorized *from the user code received from the web site host"*. Again, no code is received from a web site host in Rowland's system. It therefore logically follows that no level of access is "determined" from a user code "received from the web site host".

Finally, Rowland does not teach "transmitting user information to the web site host that pertains to the user code". Once again, Rowland's web site host provides no user code, and no determination is made as to an access level based upon the received code. It therefore follows that the Rowland system does not transmit user information to the web site host "that pertains to the user code".

For at least the foregoing reasons, Rowland does not, as is argued in the Office Action, teach each of Applicant's recited claim limitations. Moreover, Jones does not provide these missing teachings. Applicant therefore submits that claim 1, and its dependents, are allowable over the combination.

With specific regard to dependent claim 5, Applicant notes that neither Rowland nor Jones teaches or suggests "comparing the user code *provided by the web site host* with a user code assigned to the user and relevant to a particular user information set". Again, Rowland's web site host provides no user code.

Regarding dependent claim 22, neither Rowland nor Jones teaches or suggests "receiving selection of one of an *anonymous mode* in which only profile information and no personal information is provided, and a *full disclosure mode* in which profile information and personal information is provided". In response to the argument provided in the Office Action, there is no "line 66" in column 5 of the Rowland reference. Regardless, nothing in the Rowland disclosure mentions an "anonymous mode" or "full disclosure mode".

Regarding dependent claim 23, neither Rowland nor Jones teaches or suggests "receiving user selection of a *category* of information to share". Rowland discusses no such "categories."

Regarding dependent claim 24, neither Rowland nor Jones teaches or suggests any of a "personal category", a "business category", or a "financial category".

Regarding dependent claim 25, neither Rowland nor Jones teaches or suggests "assigning a first code pertinent to an initial level of access to be provided to the web site host and a second code pertinent to a deeper level of access that can be manually provided by the user if desired". There simply is no support for the argument that Rowland teaches such an action. Applicant further notes that the Examiner has not identified any specific sections of the Rowland disclosure that teach that action.

(b)   Claims 16 and 18

Independent claim 16 provides as follows (emphasis added):

> 16.   A system for sharing user information, comprising:
>
> means for assigning a user code that is pertinent to a level of access selected by a user that is to be extended to a web site host;
>
> ***means for providing the user code to the web site host when the user visits a web site maintained by the web site host;***
>
> ***means for receiving the user code from the web site host;***
>
> ***means for determining a level of access for which the web site host is authorized from the user code received from the web site host;*** and
>
> ***means for transmitting user information to the web site host that pertains to the user code.***

Neither Rowland nor Jones teach or suggest any of "means for providing the user code to the web site host when the user visits a web site maintained by the web site host", "means for receiving the user code from the web site host", "means for determining a level of access for which the web site host is authorized from the user code received from the web site host", or "means for transmitting user information to the web site host that pertains to the user code" for reasons described above in relation to claim 1. Applicant therefore submits that claims 16 and 18 are allowable over the Rowland/Jones combination for at least these reasons.

With specific regard to dependent claim 18, Applicant notes that neither Rowland nor Jones teaches or suggests "means for comparing the user code *provided by the web site host* with a user code assigned to the user and relevant to a particular user information set" for reasons described above in relation to claim 5.

(c)   Conclusion

In summary, it is Applicant's position that a *prima facie* for obviousness has not been made against Applicant's claims. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that each of these claims is patentable over Rowland/Jones and that the rejection of these claims should be withdrawn.

B.   Rejection of Claim 4

Claim 4 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rowland (and presumably Jones) in view of "Schneier". Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

As was noted in the previous Office Action, no patent or patent application number has been identified by the Examiner for the "Schneier" reference, which was used to reject Applicant's original claim 4. Applicant notes further that there are more than 50 U.S. patents and published patent applications with "Schneier" as an inventor. Applicant therefore has been *denied an opportunity to fully respond to the rejection* made by the Examiner. This is a reversible error and Applicant asserts that the final status of the rejection must be withdrawn.

C.   Rejection of Claim 6

Claim 6 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rowland (and presumably Jones) in view of Henrick, et al. ("Henrick," U.S. Pat. No. 6,055,510). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

As is identified above in reference to independent claim 1, neither Rowland nor Jones teaches various explicit limitations of Applicant's claims. In that Henrick does not remedy these deficiencies of the Rowland and Jones references, Applicant

respectfully submits that claim 6, which depends from claim 1, is allowable over the Rowland/Jones/Henrick combination for at least the same reasons that claim 1 is allowable over Rowland/Jones.

D.   Rejection of Claims 9, 11, 13, 20, and 21

Claims 9, 11, 13, 20, and 21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over <u>Rowland</u> (and presumably <u>Jones</u>) in view of <u>Davis, et al.</u> ("Davis," U.S. Pat. No. 6,367,009). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

As is identified above in reference to independent claims 1 and 16, neither Rowland nor Jones teaches various explicit limitations of Applicant's claims. In that Davis does not remedy these deficiencies of the Rowland and Jones references, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 9, 11, 13, 20, and 21, which depend from claims 1 and 16, are allowable over the Rowland/Jones/Davis combination for at least the same reasons that claims 1 and 16 are allowable over Rowland/Jones.
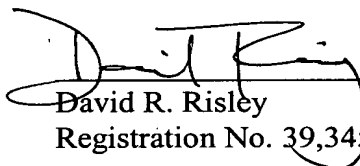
II.   New Claims

Claims 27-34 have been added into the application through this Response. Applicant respectfully submits that these new claims describe an invention novel and unobvious in view of the prior art of record and, therefore, respectfully requests that these claims be held to be allowable.
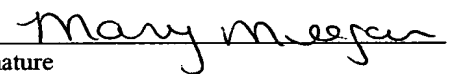
CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that Applicant's pending claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on ___7-18-05___.

Signature